

6 March 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/STAP/DCI

SUBJECT : STAP BCW Review

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to outline for you and [] what actions I have initiated to support your review and to state our current goals as I understand them. The purpose of the review requested by the DCI remains essentially the same: "to assess the organization and methodology used to arrive at the conclusions of the Intelligence Community with respect to the use by foreign nations of chemical and toxin weapons worldwide." []

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2. We do not believe that the review should constitute a detailed post audit per se of any specific SNIE or intelligence finding. Neither are we interested in preparing a public statement affirming the positions taken by the Department of State on Yellow Rain, arms control statements, submission to the US on proliferation, nor Soviet biotechnological research and biological warfare programs. But it is important that the finished intelligence on these matters constitute an initial starting place, from which two fundamental subjects derive. []

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3. A secondary but nevertheless important issue is to determine if scientific intelligence methodology now used to report on these matters publicly ... i.e. in unclassified statements provided to State Department be improved upon, or should be improved upon. Is there a better way to present fragile and preliminary scientific data along with intelligence data in National Estimates, National Intelligence Daily articles, or to Congressional Committees? How can intelligence impact on the preparation of State releases better? How can the fact that three separate laboratories find toxins on gas masks be fairly represented when we cannot disclose the intelligence chain-of-custody of the masks? How can classified laboratory results from another country be used when we do not have access to their raw data, scientists, or methods ... but our analysts have reasons to believe are results to be believed? How can incomplete scientific data acquired by intelligence means be presented to our consumers with appropriate weight when it supports rather than permits conclusions? []

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4. Our original plan was to have the review committee visit key laboratories from where the Intelligence Community obtained results and conclusions. This was to be accomplished after close reading of the SNIEs, especially Volume II of the first Yellow Rain estimate. The estimates are the only real IC compendia. I appreciate the desire to have certain primary

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documentation provided first, but insist that it be a step toward the goals above, not a replacement of the need to review the finished intelligence.

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5. I have formed a subcommittee of the DCI-NIC working group on BCW--toxins to facilitate to the extent possible the collection of some of the "second phase" analytical papers used by analysts at the several cognizant NFIB agencies who were major players in the recent estimates.

- [redacted] who is the chairman of the Advisory Panel to the Working Group.
- [redacted], a principal drafter of the important estimates who holds most of the files (at CIA) on CW-USE.
- Dan Uyesugi, holder of INR files.
- [redacted] AFMIC/DIA principal officer and drafter on toxicological and medical data.
- [redacted] who has been maintaining the data base of published unclassified scientific data.
- [redacted] chairman of Sample Management, Auditing and Co-ordination of the Working Sub-Group.
- Dr. William Sarver, CRDC/Army, who is technical director of the laboratories performing most of the analysis on samples. [redacted]

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7. This project stands to be a useful exercise for us, and will be worth the time if only a few good insights can be obtained. I am very appreciative of the willingness STAP has always shown in helping to review the drafts of estimates on this subject, to say nothing of the time you and individual STAP members have given for personal consultations. For our part, the preparation of study materials should not be viewed as another invasion on time otherwise spent on new analyses but an opportunity to make our times in the future more cost-effective, and especially, as scientifically rigorous as possible. [redacted]

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Chairman, DCI-NIC BCW-USE Working Group

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